

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 29, 2021

5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Mia Costello, Chair
Senator Roger Holland, Vice Chair
Senator Joshua Revak (via teleconference)
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

Board of Dental Examiners
Christina Hansen - Fairbanks
Bradley Heaston - Eagle River

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Real Estate Appraisers Board
Valery Kudryn - Wasilla
Mae Hayes - Wasilla

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy
Lance Johnson - Nome

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
Christina Gilbert - Juneau

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Massage Therapy
Kristin Tri - Eagle River

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Professional Counselors

Laura Patin - Eagle River

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners

Bradley McConnell - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board

Enlow Walker - Nome

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors

Elizabeth Johnston - Fairbanks

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record

WITNESS REGISTER

BRADLEY HEASTON, Appointee

Board of Dental Examiners

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Dental Examiners.

CHRISTINA HANSEN, Appointee

Board of Dental Examiners

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Dental Examiners.

VALERY KUDRYN, Appointee

Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.

MAE HAYES, Appointee
Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.

LANCE JOHNSON, Appointee
Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy.

CHRISTINA GILBERT, Appointee
Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.

KRISTIN TRI, Appointee
Board of Massage Therapy
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Eagle River, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Massage Therapy.

LAURA PATIN, Appointee
Board of Professional Counselors
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Eagle River, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Professional Counselors.

BRADLEY MCCONNELL, Appointee
Board of Psychologists and Psychological Examiners
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Dental Examiners.

DR. ENLOW WALKER, Appointee
State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Nome, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board.

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Appointee

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, & Land Surveyors.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[5:30:55 PM](#)

CHAIR MIA COSTELLO called the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Gray-Jackson, Stevens, Holland, Revak (via Teams), and Chair Costello.

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

Board of Dental Examiners

Real Estate Appraisers Board

Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board

Board of Massage Therapy

Board of Professional Counselors

Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners

Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors

[5:31:48 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO announced the consideration of Governor Appointees to Boards and Commissions. She explained the process to the nominees.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Bradley Heaston to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the Board of Dental Examiners.

[5:32:59 PM](#)

BRADLEY HEASTON, Appointee, Board of Dental Examiners, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he is a lifelong Alaskan who brings 17 years of IT experience and a background in HIPPA with certifications. He said his interest is to help the Dental Board

with a pragmatic and fair approach to issues from an IT perspective.

CHAIR COSTELLO commented on his extensive resume starting in Barrow and then moving to Anchorage.

MR. HEASTON said he grew up in Barrow and returned to help build a \$20 million National Science Foundation research facility. He also helped the Anchorage Daily News before moving on to the structure of HIPPA policies and procedures in healthcare.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked how entities keep their information private.

MR. HEASTON replied the first step is to do a security risk assessment. Next is to build a framework and path forward based on the National Institute of Standards methodology.

[5:35:44 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Brad Heaston after discerning that no one wished to testify.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Christina Hansen to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Board of Dental Examiners.

[5:36:14 PM](#)

CHRISTINA HANSEN, Appointee, Board of Dental Examiners, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Fairbanks, Alaska, said she has been practicing as a hygienist for six years. She applied to serve on this board to expand her skillset, build her professional network, and gain a deeper understanding of what it takes to run a successful organization like this board.

CHAIR COSTELLO expressed appreciation that she was willing to serve.

[5:37:55 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Christina Hansen after discerning that no one wished to testify.

CHAIR COSTELLO invited Valerie Kudryn to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.

[5:38:21 PM](#)

VALERY KUDRYN, Appointee, Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Wasilla, Alaska, advised that he has been an appraiser in Alaska since 2007 and has been working as a certified residential appraiser since 2010. He said he wants to serve on this board to give back to the profession. He hopes to apply his experience to promote appraiser independence when completing assignments and increase public confidence in the quality of appraisers being certified. He said he looks forward to applying his experience to benefit the public and the appraiser community in the state.

CHAIR COSTELLO commented that his experience in appraising green buildings will likely be valuable to the board.

[5:39:47 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Valery Kudryn after discerning that no one wished to testify.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Mae Hayes to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.

[5:40:14 PM](#)

MAE HAYES, Appointee, Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Wasilla, Alaska, advised that she is a certified residential appraiser and a real estate broker. She said she wants to serve on this board to gain a better understanding of the issues in the field, the challenges her peers face when they work alone, and how consumers perceive the profession. The value she brings to the board is her perspective as both a realtor and appraiser.

SENATOR STEVENS asked how many real estate appraisers work in Alaska.

MS. HAYES said she didn't know but she would guess that several hundred appraisers practice in the state.

[5:42:34 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Mae Hayes after discerning that no one wished to testify.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Lance Johnson to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the State Board of Public Accountancy.

[5:42:59 PM](#)

LANCE JOHNSON, Appointee, Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that for more than 25 years he has held various management and executive positions in the internal audit and risk management fields. He said he relies heavily on the services that CPAs provide, so he has a vested interest in ensuring that the integrity and quality of their services meet the expectations of the public.

[5:44:59 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Lance Johnson after discerning that no one wished to testify.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Christina Gilbert to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.

[5:45:29 PM](#)

CHRISTINA GILBERT, Appointee, Alaska Workers' Compensation Board, Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Juneau, Alaska, stated that she has 20 years of human resource (HR) experience and is currently the HR manager for Coeur Alaska. Throughout this time she has managed part or all her various employers' workers' compensation programs. She said she was appointed at the end of 2020 and is still feeling out how to use her experience to benefit the board and give back to the state. She looks forward to the opportunity to offer her service.

CHAIR COSTELLO commented on her breadth of experience and expressed gratitude that she was willing to serve.

[5:46:57 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Christina Gilbert after discerning that no one wished to testify.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Kristin Tri to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Board of Massage Therapy.

[5:47:31 PM](#)

KRISTIN TRI, Appointee, Board of Massage Therapy, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Eagle River, Alaska, stated that she has been a massage therapist for nearly five years and has served on the board since March 2020. She said her interest in serving is to help this new board figure out how it will serve the public and the massage therapists it oversees. Part of this is to look at the government side and how the board can help address the large issue of sex trafficking in Alaska.

CHAIR COSTELLO noted that her resume indicates she is a busy person.

[5:49:04 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Kristin Tri after discerning that no one wished to testify.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Laura Patin to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Board of Professional Counselors

[5:49:48 PM](#)

LAURA PATIN, Appointee, Board of Professional Counselors, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Eagle River, Alaska, stated that she has served on this board for the last year and would like to continue. She likes that the board is at the forefront to make direct and quick changes, which was valuable this last year during the COVID-19 pandemic when therapists had to switch to teletherapy. Being part of the process to accommodate that change was interesting and she would like to be able to continue to serve Alaska in that way, she said.

SENATOR STEVENS asked her to talk about transitioning from working in the school district to being in private practice.

MS. PATIN said she worked at the school to be close to her children and it was an easy transition when she opened her own practice.

[5:53:09 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Laura Patin after discerning that no one wished to testify.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Bradley McConnell to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the Board of Psychologists and Psychological Examiners.

5:53:33 PM

BRADLEY MCCONNELL, PsyD, MSCP, Appointee, Board of Psychologists and Psychological Examiners, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he is a board certified clinical psychologist who has worked in a variety of settings. Currently he practices with the Copper River Native Association in Glennallen. He said his interest in serving on this board is to bring knowledge and information on national trends in the field of psychology and how those trends can integrate into Alaska's unique culture. He said this board was a national leader in facilitating ethical practice during COVID-19 when Alaskans returned from other states. The board established a national curtesy license for psychologists in other states so they could continue to see their Alaskan patients. Other states followed this lead. He said Alaska has more than 300 practitioners and his goal in serving on this board is to help support and expand the development of homegrown psychologists in Alaska through local universities. He said he looks forward to continuing to serve, if confirmed.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked what he is seeing in the national trends.

DR. MCCONNELL said he believes that his field has led the way in transitioning to remote teletherapy. Alaska has desperately needed this because so many Alaskans who need mental health services must drive miles to the closest clinical site to see a therapist. It was good long term for Alaska to be on the leading edge in that regard, he said.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON asked why his resume indicates that he is still in Bakersfield, California.

DR. MCCONNELL replied that resume is outdated; he has been in Alaska for about 18 months. He was born and raised in Bakersfield.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON suggested he think about updating his resume and thanked him for being willing to serve.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked him to provide an updated resume to the committee.

DR. MCCONNELL agreed to do so.

5:57:43 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Bradley McConnell after discerning that no one wished to testify. She thanked him for being willing to serve.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Enlow Walker to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board.

5:58:14 PM

ENLOW WALKER, MD, Appointee, State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Nome, Alaska, stated that he was seeking reappointment to this board.

DR. WALKER related that he is a retired family practice physician whose medical training was financed by an Air Force scholarship program. He served on active duty with the Air Force for seven years, five of which were at Eielson Air Force Base. In 1988 he started to work at the Fairbanks clinic and retired in 2016. Since retiring, he has provided part time coverage for former partners. He said he was first appointed to this board in 2018 and currently serves as secretary. He explained that while practicing as a physician he interacted with physical and occupational therapists, including as supervisor of the physical therapy department at the Fairbanks clinic. He advised that he has also been serving on the State Advisory Board for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse since 2011 and the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Health and Social Services Commission since 2018. He said he believes his experience is helpful to the board.

SENATOR STEVENS congratulated him for staying involved after retiring.

CHAIR COSTELLO noted that he worked at two youth facilities and a pioneer home. She asked if he had insight on the issues facing both Alaskan youths and Alaska's elderly population.

DR. WALKER said those are both complex issues. For the elderly it is access to medical care because many providers are not willing to take Medicare patients due to bureaucracy and low rates of reimbursement. He said didn't really have any new ideas for youths, but they would benefit if the adults in their lives set better examples.

6:02:13 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Dr. Enlow Walker after discerning that no one wished to testify. She expressed appreciation that he brought extensive experience to his service.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Elizabeth Johnston to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, & Land Surveyors.

[6:02:59 PM](#)

ELIZABETH JOHNSTON, Appointee, Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, & Land Surveyors, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Fairbanks, Alaska, advised that this board oversees 18 different professions and if a bill in the process were to pass, interior designers would be added. She stated that she is seeking reappointment to this board after serving for four years because there is much unfinished work she would like to help complete. The board is working to facilitate military spouse licensure and is tracking legislation making its way through the process. The board is also working to help with license mobility, particularly related to the way continuing education is regulated and tracked. She noted that the board has a large outreach component to educate peripherally associated individuals and unlicensed professions about what the board does to protect the public. She said the foregoing is the major work the board will do over the next year.

SENATOR HOLLAND observed that she won the 2015 Illuminating Engineering Society Award of Merit for the Nanook Locker Room.

MS. JOHNSTON she explained that the ceiling has a blue, undulating LED lighting system to simulate the underside of a glacier.

SENATOR HOLLAND extended his congratulations for outstanding work.

[6:05:58 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened and closed public testimony on the appointment of Elizabeth Johnston after discerning that no one wished to testify. She thanked her for being willing to continue to serve.

[6:06:12 PM](#)

At ease

[6:06:18 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO reconvened the meeting.

[6:06:22 PM](#)

SENATOR HOLLAND stated that in accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointments be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

Board of Dental Examiners

Christina Hansen - Fairbanks
- Bradley Heaston - Eagle River

Real Estate Appraisers Board

Valery Kudryn - Wasilla
Mae Hayes - Wasilla

Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy

Lance Johnson - Nome

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board

Christina Gilbert - Juneau

Board of Massage Therapy

Kristin Tri - Eagle River

Board of Professional Counselors

Laura Patin - Eagle River

Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners

Bradley McConnell - Anchorage

Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board

Enlow Walker - Nome

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors

Elizabeth Johnston - Fairbanks

Signing the reports regarding appointments to boards and commissions in no way reflects individual members' approval or disapproval of the appointees; the nominations are merely forwarded to the full legislature for confirmation or rejection.

[6:07:37 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Costello adjourned the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting at 6:07 p.m.